# GUIDELINES FOR THE ENFIELD FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER PROGRAM

Enfield Community Development Loan Program

#### **Purpose and Priorities**

The purpose of the Enfield First-Time Homebuyer Loan Program (FTHB) is to make funds available to help low-and moderate-income households purchase existing housing units in designated sections within the Town of Enfield at an affordable price. The Enfield Office of Community Development will promote the availability of funding to all eligible Applicants without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, and age. Federal regulations issued under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA) prohibits creditor practices that discriminate based on any of these factors.

#### Forms of Assistance

#### Financial Assistance for Down-payment, Closing Costs, Mortgage Write-down

This Program enables the Town of Enfield to increase the purchasing power of first time homebuyers. In essence, this money is the gap funding the Applicant needs to meet the rising cost of housing in Enfield. The funds may be used to pay for a down-payment, closing costs and inspections, or as a direct principle payment toward your mortgage after your closing. This money becomes a second deferred mortgage on the property which may be forgiven if the buyer remains in the home for a predetermined amount of time. Funding comes from the Federal and State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program through the Town of Enfield Office of Community Development (OCD). The maximum loan amount is broken down as follows:

\$20,000 Thompsonville-Tract 4806 \$10,000 North Thompsonville-Tract 4805

The loan amount can be used for down payment, closing costs, mortgage write-down, or any other expenses related to the purchase of a home in Enfield.

#### Forgivable Loan Program

The Enfield FTHP program provides a forgivable loan option to all low and moderate income home buyers. In a forgivable loan program, the loan principle is reduced annually over a predetermined time period. The loan is forgiven if the homeowner remains in the house for the full term of the loan.

#### For example:

<b>Loan Duration</b>	Payback Percentage
Year 1	100%
Year 2	90%
Year 3	80%
Year 4	70%
Year 5	60%
Year 6	50%
Year 7	40%
Year 8	30%
Year 9	20%
Year 10	0%

Under this scenario, if the homeowner were to sell the property in the  $5^{th}$  year, the seller would repay 60% of the total loan value including interest charges as determined by the agreement.

Loan rates, terms, and conditions are set by the Office of Community Development and are determined by the applicant's income status and ability to repay the loan. All loan determinations are subject to a Loan Review Committee process that will affirm the applicant's eligibility.

#### I. PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

#### A. LOW-AND MODERATE-INCOME PROGRAM

#### **Purpose**

To provide financial assistance for the purchase of permanent housing that benefits low-and moderate-income households. Only residential housing under the following guidelines shall qualify:

#### **Definitions**

1. Eligibility – Households may be eligible based on the number of persons in the household and the total household income. All income earned by all members of the household (except for dependent children) is calculated for purposes of determining if the household is eligible to receive funding

assistance. Total household income must not exceed the federal income limits for Community Development Block Grants. Such income limits are updated annually by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD"). Current income limits (2009) for Hartford County are as follows:

Number in Family	Low Income	Moderate Income
1- person household	\$29,800	\$44,800
2- person household	\$34,050	\$51,200
3- person household	\$38,300	\$57,600
4- person household	\$42,550	\$64,000
5- person household	\$45,950	\$69,100
6- person household	\$49,350	\$74,250
7- person household	\$52,750	\$79,350
8 or more- person	\$56,150	\$84,500
household		

- **2. First-Time Homebuyer** Any Applicant who has not owned real estate for their primary residence or any other real property in the last three years. This restriction may be waived by the Director of Community Development for Applicants recently divorced, widowed, or victims of domestic violence.
- **3.** Market Rate Unless otherwise indicated, the average mortgage rate for a 30-year fixed rate mortgage from one of the lending institutions doing business with the Town of Enfield First-Time Homebuyer Program.
- **4. OCD** Office of Community Development acts on behalf of the Town of Enfield to run and administer the First-Time Homebuyer Program (FTHP).
- **5. HQS** Housing Quality Standard set by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- **6. Persons with a Disability** Individuals with an inability to pursue particular functions based on a mental and/or physical impairment. Documentation of disability income is required.

#### B. ELIGIBILTY

- 1. The Applicant is a first-time homebuyer, and all mortgages will not exceed \$250,000 in total on the property.
- 2. The property must be the primary residence of the Applicant(s) for the duration of the loan.

- 3. Applicants do not have to live in Enfield when they apply for the program. However, the home they are purchasing must be located in a FTHB designated area.
- 4. The property to be purchased must be a single-family house, condominium, or a two- to four-family structure, and must be located within the neighborhoods of Thompsonville and North Thompsonville. (See Map) The Town has designated these areas as high priority for increased homeownership. Under the FTHB program, the boundaries of the designated area include the Massachusetts state-line to the north, Route 190 to the south, east to Interstate 91, and west to the Connecticut River. The area is comprised of census tracts 4805 & 4806.

Please be advised, rent increases for multifamily apartment shall not exceed the Fair Market Rent levels as determined by HUD for the life of the loan. FMR information can be obtained from the OCD.

5. The Applicant receives a **certificate of participation from an approved homebuyer-counseling program**.

Co-Opportunity Inc. 860-236-3617

Mutual Housing of Hartford 860-296-1797 Ext. 10

Urban League 860-527-0147

- The household meets the **income limits** for the CDBG and HOME programs. The Federal government requires households receiving federally funded down payment assistance to have an adjusted gross income, as defined by the Internal Revenue Service, below 80% of the Hartford County Median Income (MFI).
- 7. Applicants Who Withdraw Except as provided hereafter, Applicants who withdraw from the process after submitting their application but prior to receiving commitment shall not be allowed to reapply for a period of two years. Applicants who withdraw after commitment shall not be allowed to apply for a period of four years. Exception: either of the above waiting periods may be waived at the discretion of the OCD.
- 8. Non-Displacement Policy Funds will not be provided towards the purchase of any property if any existing rental tenant(s) will be displaced upon change of ownership that would invoke the Town of Enfield Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan under Section 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended.

- 9. Lead Paint Regulations Before occupancy all units must comply with lead paint regulations issued under Title X ("ten") of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1972. The new regulation appears within title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations as part 35 (24 CFR 35). Please ask OCD staff for clarification on the new Federal lead paint regulations.
- **10. Home Inspection -** Before occupancy, all units must be inspected by a licensed Home Inspector, and an inspection report must be submitted to the OCD prior to the closing.

#### II. TYPES OF ASSISTANCE

#### DOWN PAYMENTS

Down payments are usually required by your lending institution to demonstrate your ability to produce and save money. The FTHB program allows you to use up to \$20,000 (Thompsonville-Tract 4806) or \$10,000 (North Thompsonville-Tract 4805) of loan funds toward your down payment.

#### CLOSING COSTS

Closing costs include such items as; lending institution processing and servicing fees, attorney fees, appraisals, notary fees, recording fees and cost of inspections to determine the condition of the structure, mechanical / electrical systems, and property in general. Closing cost will be paid at the time of the closing by check which will be issued by the OCD.

#### DIRECT MORTGAGE WRITE-DOWN

If the applicant does not need assistance with down payment or closing costs, or if unexpended loan funds remain at the end of the closing, the funds may be used to write-down the mortgage through a one-time principle payment to the lending institution.

#### **INTEREST RATES**

Interest Rates for conventional loans are dynamic. They are constantly adjusted in reaction to changes in the economy. Due to these fluctuations, the interest rates for the Town's Community Development loan programs will be adjusted accordingly. The Town shall set its interest rates based on the conventional Prime Rate. In most cases the Town's interest rates shall be set below the Prime Rate as to provide an adequate incentive to the loan recipient.

Loan rates are to be set by the Town's Loan Review Committee and may vary between 0% to 12% depending on a property owner's income and/or cost of operating the property and/or ability to repay the loan. The rate of the Town loan shall vary for each case based on prevailing conventional interest rates and rates of private loans secured by the property owner.

The interest rate for the Town loan will be fixed for the life of the loan and will only apply to repayment of loan funds due to the sale of the property prior to forgiveness date.

The Town shall set a range of interest rates for various income levels of property owners. Interest rates shall be set below conventional interest rates to provide an incentive for the loan recipient.

#### III. GENERAL FTHB GUIDELINES

#### A. APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applications may be obtained at the Town of Enfield, Office of Community Development, 100 High Street, Enfield, CT 06082.
- Applicants must submit *all required materials* including a pre-approval letter from the lending institution with whom they chose to obtain a first mortgage, a certification that s/he has completed an approved homebuyer counseling class and a signed FTHB application. [The application simply states that the Applicant(s) has read and understands the FTHB Guidelines and agrees to abide by all terms and conditions of the Program.]
- All applications will be stamped to show the date received by the OCD.
- Applications will be **reviewed for initial eligibility in order of submission**.
- If an Applicant does not adequately complete the application in its entirety, the OCD will return the application, noting the omitted information. The Applicant may choose to complete and resubmit his/her application.

#### B. PRELIMINARY ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION

Once an Applicant is determined to be eligible, and they have submitted all necessary documentation to our office, their application will be presented to the Loan Review Committee. **If approved**, funds will be reserved for a period of 90 days, or by the set closing date on the offer.

A preliminary eligibility determination by the OCD is not a financial or legal commitment on the part of the OCD to a loan or a grant.

The Applicant will qualify for assistance if they meet the criteria to qualify with the program guidelines. The need will be determined by the OCD Staff after the lending institution issues a good faith estimate for closing costs and down payment. Once that amount has been determined the Applicant's resources will be reviewed and need determined. The loan funds will not cover points to reduce interest rates. The maximum amount of Down Payment / Closing Cost assistance is \$20,000 (Thompsonville-Tract 4806) or \$10,000 (North Thompsonville-Tract 4805).

#### C. FINAL DETERMINATION

When an Applicant is notified that S/He is eligible, S/He is then encouraged to begin looking for a house to buy, unless S/He has an offer to provide OCD. Applicants should keep the OCD informed of their progress. The OCD will obtain the following documents from the Bank with whom the Applicant is working for their conventional loan as well as documentation from the Applicant.

The Applicant must authorize the Bank or Lending Institution to release required information to the OCD.

- 1. Executed Purchase and Sale Agreement;
- **2.** Letter of First Mortgage commitment or pre-approval letter from the bank or lending institution;
- **3.** Certified property appraisal; (Fair Market Value)
- **4.** Credit report of Applicant(s) (pulled within the past 6 months).
- **5.** Applicants must submit a Home Inspection Report by a licensed Home Inspector.
- **6.** Guideform Notice-Disclosures to Seller with Voluntary, Arm's Length Purchase Offer.

The OCD may require additional information and documentation if necessary.

Once a fully executed Purchase and Sale agreement and the Guideform Notice-Disclosures to Seller with Voluntary, Arm's Length Purchase Offer (see sample A) has been provided to the OCD, funds will be committed to the Applicant and thus provided to the lending institutions in which the first mortgage is held at settlement (closing).

#### D. COMMITMENT AND CLOSING

#### 1. Commitment

After receiving a copy of the fully executed Purchase and Sale agreement and the Guideform Notice-Disclosures to Seller with Voluntary, Arm's Length Purchase Offer (see sample A), the OCD will issue a First-Time Homebuyer Loan and/or Grant Commitment Letter to the Applicant. The letter will also inform the Applicant of other information, conditions, and/or materials that may be required to establish a loan closing date.

The Applicant must meet any and all requests for supplementary information, condition and/or materials as specified in the letter. The Applicant will be asked to sign the Loan and/or Grant Commitment Letter, a Truth in Lending Disclosure Statement, and a Lead Paint Notification Form.

#### 2. Closing

The First-Time Homebuyer loan and/or grant will precede the closing on the First Conventional Mortgage. The following is a partial list of typical documents required at the closing:

- 1. Certificate of Municipal Lien
- 2. Insurance Binder for both hazard (liability) and property insurance if applicable. The OCD must appear as a loss payee as follows:

Town of Enfield Office of Community Development 100 High Street Enfield, CT 06082

#### E. TIME FRAME

The Applicant can expect the following timeline to be followed to the best of the OCD's ability:

• 30-60 days: Closing with the OCD will take place within 30 to 60 days after the Applicant has satisfied all closing requirements or at a later date set by the applicant and their lending institution.

#### F. LENDING INSTITUTIONS

Applicants are encouraged to work with local Lending Institutions who are familiar with the Enfield housing market and can provide on-going services after the sale is complete. However, buyers are not limited to local Lending Institutions as long as the terms and rates of your mortgage are comparable with industry standards. The Town of Enfield reserves the right to investigate the lending practices of all Lending Institutions involved in this program. The Town will refuse Applicants that attempt to obtain mortgages from institutions that engage in predatory or unscrupulous lending activities.

All funding for the closing, other than OCD funding is the responsibility of the Applicant. Any procedures or requirements of the Lending Institutions will be not superceded by the FTHP.

#### G. PROGRAM CONTACT

Office of Community Development 100 High Street Enfield, CT 06082 860-253-6390 www.enfield.org

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Date/ Time Received Complete:

Case #:

Date:	

# Town of Enfield FTHB Program Application

Applicant 1:					M F
(LAST)			RST)	(MI)	
Current Address:					
(Applicant 1)	Street/	Apt.#	City/Town	State	Zip
If you have lived at th			•	• •	revious
Social Security #			(Primary A <sub>l</sub>	oplicant)	
Date of Birth #			(Primary Ap	plicant)	
Daytime Telephone #	( )	-	( <b>P</b> 1	rimary Applica	nnt)
Evening Telephone #	( )	-	(Pr	rimary Applica	nt)
<ul> <li>Have you owned a hom</li> <li>What is your monthly r</li> <li>Have you received a ce training course? Yes</li> <li>If no, you must provide</li> </ul>	rent? (If appoint if it is not in the control of th	licable) \$_ hin the last	year for completion		-

Co Applicant:					$\mathbf{M}$	F
(LAST)		(FIR	(MI)			
Current Address:						
(Co Applicant)	Street/	Apt.#	City/Town	State	Zip	
If you have lived at th address:			_	_		\S
Social Security #  Date of Birth #						
Daytime Telephone # Evening Telephone #						
			hildren in Hou			
REQUESTED LOAN	AMOUN	T				

<b>Household Composition</b>
Number of Persons who reside in Applicant(s) current home:  Number of children who will live with the Applicants(s):  Number of children (if any) under the age of 6 who will reside in unit:  If a purchasing a multifamily home, list the number of units:
The following information is not required. However, this information will enable us to adhere to Fair Housing Regulations.
Ethnic Identity:      Asian      Black      Eskimo / Aleutian        Pacific Islander      Cape Verdean      Native American      White      Other
Female Head of Household: Yes No Household Member Disabled: Yes No

#### **Income**

Please list all income of all household members who receive income and source of income, including the Applicant(s) (employed, social security, disability, etc.). Also, list the gross monthly amount of income received. In addition, list the position from which income is received, if applicable.

List Gross Dollars	Applicant	Co-Applicant	Position
A. Wages, Salary, Tips	\$	\$	
B. Business Income	\$	\$	
C. Social Security	\$	\$	
D. Pension	\$	\$	
E. Child Support	\$	\$	
F. Alimony	\$	\$	
G. Dividends and Interest	\$	\$	
H. Unemployment Compensation	\$	\$	
I. Other(describe)	\$	\$	
Total	\$	\$	

#### **EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION**

Household Member/Applicant(s)	Employer/ Address	Name of Supervisor	Length of Employment	Telephone #

#### **ASSETS/LIABILITIES**

Assets:	Balance	Account #	Bank/Finance Co.
Checking:	\$		
Savings:	\$		
CD/IRA:	\$		
Time Share	\$		
Other:	\$		

## List all Credit Accounts, Loans (Credit Cards, Department Stores, Auto, Personal Loans, etc.)

Creditor	Account #	<b>Balance Due</b>	Monthly Payment
	\$		rayment
	\$		
	\$		
	\$		
	\$		
	\$		
	\$		

Have you ever had any judgments or other legal proceedings against you? Yes No
Have you gone through bankruptcy in the past ten (10) years? Yes No
If yes, please explain:
Are you co-maker, endorser or guarantor for others? Yes No
If yes, please explain:
Please attach all other supporting information to this application form.  LENDING INSTITUTION
Name of Institution
Loan Officer / Contact Person
Phone Number
Please attach a copy of your mortgage application to this FTHB application.
I/We certify that the above information is correct to the best of my knowledge, and I/We authorize the Enfield OCD to verify the facts stated. I/We also understand giving false statements or information will automatically terminate this application. I/We certify that this application does not in any way constitute a binding agreement between the Enfield FTHB Program and the said applicant(s) for the funding assistance to the purchase of property. I/We have read and fully understand the FTHB Program guidelines provided to me with this application, including all intake procedures for the program. I/We also understand that the funding used for the Enfield FTHB Program has income and affordability restrictions as well as deed restrictions.
Applicant 1 signature: Date:
Applicant 2 signature: Date:

### DOCUMENT CHECKLIST FOR REQUIRED INFORMATION FOR (FTHB) FIRST TIME HOMEBUYERS

#### INITIAL INFORMATION REQUIRED WITH THE APPLICATION FOR FTHB

- 1. COMPLETED APPLICATION
- 2. PRE APPROVAL LETTER
- 3. CREDIT REPORT
- 4. CERTIFICATE FROM AN APPROVED HOMEBUYER COUNSELING CLASS

#### INCOME TAX DOCUMENTATION

- 1. LAST 2 YEARS OF TAX RETURNS INCLUDING W-2 FORMS (1040,1040A,1040 EZ,1098,1099 AND ALL SCHEDULES)
- 2. IN THE EVENT A TAX DOCUMENT IS MISSING IN PART OR IN WHOLE, OR IF THE APPLICANT DID NOT FILE TAXES, A TRANSCRIPT OR VERIFICATION OF NONFILING MAY BE REQUESTED FROM THE IRS (FORM 4506 AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST OFR IRWS.GOV)
- 5. IF SELF EMPLOYED, INCLUDE YEAR-TO-DATE PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT AND LAST FOUR (4) QUARTERLY TAX PAYMENT DOCUMENTS

#### **EVIDENCE OF INCOME**

- 1. LAST 30 DAYS OF APPLICANT(S) AND PERSONS WITHIN HOUSEHOLD WHO EARN INCOME:
  - a. PAYROLL STUBS
  - b. ALIMONY
  - c. CHILD SUPPORT
  - d. SOCIAL SECURITY
  - e. PENSION
  - f. DISABILITY (MAY BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT EVIDENCE OF DISABILITY)
  - g. UNEMPLOYMENT
  - h. OTHER
  - i. CHILD 18 YEARS OR OLDER AND A FULL TIME STUDENT, PLEASE PROVIDE 30 DAYS OF INCOME AND A LETTER FROM THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION INDICATING STUDENT'S FULL TIME STATUS

#### 2. VERIFICATION OF INCOME

a. LETTER FROM EMPLOYER/SUPERVISOR INDICATING LENGTH OF EMPLOYMENT, CURRENT SALARY, ANY BONUS OR COMMISSIONS APPLICANT HAS BEEN OR MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR ON AN ONGOING BASIS. INCLUDE DIRECT TELEPHONE NUMBER OF EMPLOYER/SUPERVISOR TO VERIFY INCOME.

## DOCUMENT CHECKLIST FOR REQUIRED INFORMATION FOR (FTHB) FIRST TIME HOMEBUYERS (CONTINUED)

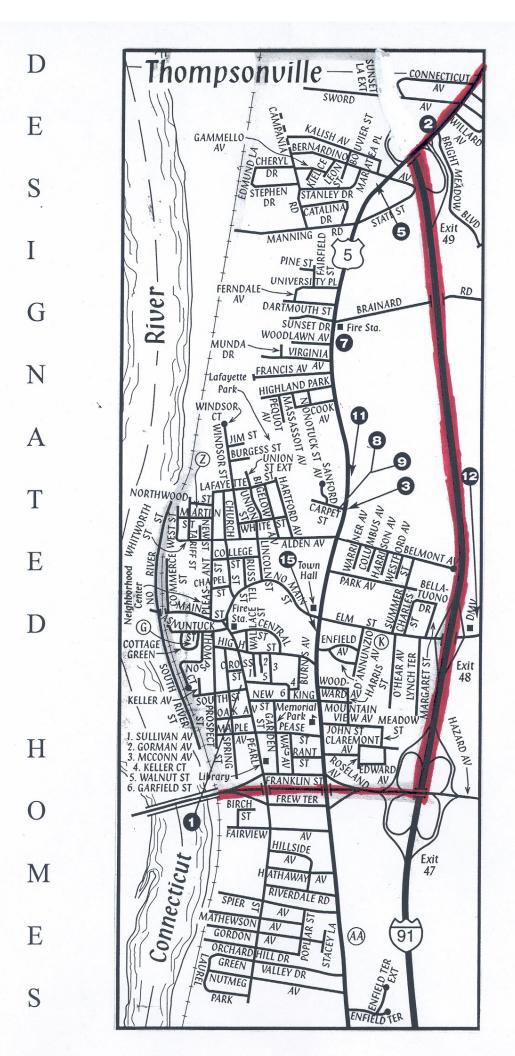
#### LIABILITIES

PROVIDE COPIES OF TWO (2) MOST RECENT STATEMENTS EVEN IF ACCOUNT CARRIES A ZERO BALANCE

- a. AUTO LOAN/LEASE(S)
- b. CREDIT CARD(S)
- c. PERSONAL LOAN
- d. DEPARTMENT STORE
- e. OTHER (DESCRIBE)
- A) THEN WHEN YOU HAVE A HOUSE THAT YOU ARE PURCHASING, WE WOULD ALSO NEED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO PRESENT TO THE LOAN REVIEW COMMITTEE(PLEASE NOTE-THE LOAN REVIEW COMMITTEE ONLY MEETS ONCE A MONTH-THE FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH):
  - 1. PURCHASE AND SALES AGREEMENT

THIS FOLLOWING FORM MUST BE INCLUDED WITH THE PURCHASE AND SALES AGREEMENT (IF YOU DO NOT COMPLETE THIS FORM, OUR OFFICE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PROCESS YOUR APPLICATION)

- a. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION ON LEAD-BASED PAINT AND/OR LEAD-BASED PAINT HAZARDS.
- 2. CERTIFIED PROPERTY APPRAISAL
- 3. HOME INSPECTION REPORT (COMPLETED BY A LICENSED HOME INSPECTIOR)
- 4. LETTER FROM LANDLORD
- 5. GUIDEFORM NOTICE-DISCLOSURE TO SELLER WITH VOLUNTARY, ARM'S LENGTH PURCHASE OFFER



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